

Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association

A Non-Profit Professional Organization



Application for Membership

Applicants for membership in POWA must meet certain minimum requirements based upon a set of criteria established by the Board of Directors. Each applicant must be sponsored by an Active Member or jointly by a Supporting Member and Active Member. Members cannot sponsor a relative. An unrelated third party is required to serve as sponsor. Each application will be reviewed by the Membership Screening Committee. After such review, the application will be presented, along with recommendations, if any, for acceptance, reclassification or rejection, to the Board of Directors for action.

To be eligible for "Active" classification, the member must be compensated for outdoor communications services, with published production meeting criteria within the specified period (12 months) immediately prior to filing of application. Each applicant must demonstrate a continual and regular effort in professional outdoor communications. **Proof of payment and publication must be submitted with the application.**

Name of applicant _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____

Email _____

Telephone (home) _____ (work) _____ (fax) _____

How long have you been in outdoor communications? _____

Is outdoor communications work full-time _____ or part-time _____

Principal position – title, status or outdoor field you are applying under _____

To expedite approval of your application, please enclose the following with your completed application:

- _____ Completed application, including category descriptions and information
- _____ Attachments of work (See category requirements.)
- _____ Proof of payment from employer / canceled check
- _____ Payment of \$70 (\$10 initiation fee plus \$60 membership fee)

Send completed application to sponsor or Executive Director for submission to the Screening Committee.

Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association

Dennis Scharadin, Executive Director

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Summit Station, PA 17979-9800
570-739-2085
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Any combination of categories and 60 total points for the preceding 12 months may qualify for Active membership.

Select Appropriate Category(ies):

- _____ 1. Newspaper, Magazine or Internet Journalist; Writer; Columnist; Editor; Designer, Publisher, or Staff Member for print or online publication(s)
- _____ 2. Freelance Writer – on contract basis – for print or online publications (e.g., newspapers, magazines, newsletters, eZines, etc.)
- _____ 3. Photographer (for print or online publications), Videographer or Producer
- _____ 4. Artist, Illustrator or Cartoonist published in any medium
- _____ 5. Webmaster of an outdoor-related website
- _____ 6. Film Editor, Scriptwriter, Director or Producer for a full-length film or video
- _____ 7. Television or Radio Personality with a regularly scheduled program
- _____ 8. Broadcast Scriptwriter, Editor, Photographer, Director or Producer in television or other aired video or radio production (periodic guest appearances do not qualify)
- _____ 9. Book Author (including eBooks), Editor, Designer or Publisher
- _____ 10. Educator, Presenter, Instructor or Nature Interpreter
- _____ 11. Full-time employee of a Nonprofit Conservation or Outdoor Recreation Agency, working with public relations, agency publications, public information, or disseminating outdoor or recreational information
- _____ 12. Full-time Employee of an Outdoor-related Industry, Agency, Business Association or Organization, including Public Relations and Marketing
- _____ 13. Outdoor-related businesses, agencies, organizations or associations that support POWA as supporting members

Point Scale: *(A total of 60 points is needed to qualify for Active membership. Please submit appropriate supporting materials along with your application for review by the Screening Committee.)*

60 Points

- Awarded automatically for a full-time outdoor communicator in any media
- Automatic for an author of a book (30,000+ words) for three years
- One-hour TV or radio segment (1 Point per minute)

30 Points

- Published cover photo, cover illustration, or full color art
- 30-minute TV or radio segment (1 Point per minute)

20 Points

- Print or eBook of less than 30,000 words

15 Points

- Full-color art or illustration published in print or online media

10 Points

- Black-and-white illustration published in print or online media
- Any paid story, column, photo, or video clip published in print or online
- Any 30-minute seminar, presentation, or slide show

6 Points

- Blog post/entry of 500 or more words (if unpaid, the blog must receive 500 or more unique views per month)

3 Points

- Short story, blog post/entry, or sidebar of 499 words or less

Category(ies): _____

Total Points: _____

All applicants will be considered. The POWA Board of Directors recognizes that the field of professional outdoor communications continues to grow, expand and employ new technologies. The Board encourages outdoor communicators to “make the case” for membership on their application.

Select Appropriate Membership:

_____ **Active Member** shall be a person who disseminates to the public and receives remuneration for the news information or thoughts concerning the outdoors and/or management and enjoyment of natural resources, and meets the 60 point requirement. Such dissemination can be in any of the following fields: writing for publication, editing, broadcasting or telecasting, illustration (including photography), or public speaking. An active member shall have full voting privileges and the right to hold office.

_____ **Associate Member** shall be a person who received compensation for any of the accepted aspects of outdoor communication as listed herein, but has not yet produced the quantity of work necessary for Active membership. An Associate Member agrees to work toward achieving Active status and is subject to a yearly review by the Membership Screening Committee. An Associate Member has all the benefits of an Active Member, but is not eligible to vote or hold office.

_____ **Student Member** shall be a person enrolled in some capacity in an accredited secondary school, community college, college or technical school and have an interest in pursuing a full or part-time career in nature art, outdoor photography, outdoor writing, conservation, outdoor education or nature tourism. Student Members receive the same benefits as Active Members, excluding the ability to vote or hold office. Student membership does not require meeting the 60 point requirement.

IMPORTANT: Applicants must submit proof of payment in the form of vouchers or supporting letters from editors, publishers, or employers; or photocopies of canceled checks or pay stubs. Amount paid may be redacted. Attach required examples of published works giving dates of presentation or publication and title of media (if not shown on material submitted) for writing, lecturing, still photography and art work. Broadcasters, cinematographers and television producers should provide supporting letters from employers and description of such activities. Application cannot be processed or presented to the Board of Directors without supporting documentation or exhibits. Any additional data you wish to list may be submitted on a separate sheet of paper.

Initiation Fee: _____ \$10 *Annual Dues:* Active (voting) _____ \$60 | Associate _____ \$60 | Student _____ \$20

Return completed application **TO SPONSOR** along with supporting proofs, proof of payment, initiation fees and annual dues. Membership card will be mailed if accepted; remittance will be returned if not accepted. Any problems with an application will be handled through the sponsor.

Sponsor’s Endorsement – I certify that I have examined this application and documentation as completed by the applicant; that I am satisfied by virtue of personal or first-hand knowledge that the applicant named herein meets the requirements for membership, and I recommend him/her for membership in the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association, Inc.

Sponsor’s signature _____ Print name _____ Date _____

Applicant’s Statement – I hereby make application for membership in the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association, Inc. I certify that the information with the supporting material that I have given is accurate.

Applicant’s signature _____ Print name _____ Date _____

For Screening Committee Use Only

Classification: _____ Active _____ Associate _____ Student

_____ Approved _____ Not Approved

Screening Committee:

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

Board of Directors Approval and Date: _____